

AMIAA NEWS

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**The Participants in the 84th Annual Meeting of the AMAA
Montreal, Canada**

AMAA Elects Board Members and Officers

The Board of Directors of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), at its meeting on October 17, 2003, re-elected Andrew Torigian of Paramus, NJ, as the President of the Association for his seventh consecutive term.

Each year the AMAA mails out ballots to its members for the election of one-third of its Board of Directors. The membership, in turn, elects AMAA Board members to serve three-year terms. The newly-constituted Board then proceeds to appoint the officers of the AMAA for the coming year.

This year (2003) one incumbent, Robert Hekemian, Sr. of Saddle River, NJ, was re-elected to the Board.

The newly elected members to the AMAA Board of the Class of 2006 were Dr. Ara Apelian of Piscataway, NJ; Edward Avedisian of Lexington, MA; Vahram Aynilian of Alpine, NJ; Vatche Baghdikian of Upper Saddle River, NJ; Peter Kougasian, Esq. of Pelham Manor, NY; Louis Kurkjian of Fullerton, CA; Aram Minnetian of Tenaflly, NJ; and Andy Torigian of Paramus, NJ.

The new officers of the AMAA for the coming year are: Andy Torigian (President) of Paramus, NJ; Dr. Hrair Steven Aharonian (Vice President) of Northridge, CA; Robert Hekemian, Sr. (Vice President) of Saddle River, NJ; Peter Kougasian, Esq. (Vice



Mr. Andrew Torigian, President



Mr. Robert Hekemian, Sr., Vice-President



Dr. H. Steven Aharonian, Vice-President



Peter Kougasian, Esq., Vice-President

President) of Pelham Manor, NY; Aram Robert Minnetian (Treasurer) of Park Ridge, NJ; David Hekemian (Assistant Treasurer) of New York, NY; Eileen Stephey (Co-Recording Secretary) of Havertown, PA; Harry Dulgarian (Co-Recording Secretary) of Belmont, MA; and Gary Phillips, Esq. (Co-Recording Secretary) of

Los Angeles, CA.

Installation of the new officers took place the following day in the course of the Sunday morning worship service at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal. Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, Board Member of the AMAA, officiated at the installation.G

Christmas In Our Hearts

by Dikran Youmshakian

“Hark the herald angels sing, Glory to the new-born King.”

A little girl went Christmas shopping with her parents. She was thrilled and enthusiastic about the season. The parents, however, were tired, tense, uptight and worn out with all the traffic and long lines of waiting at the stores.

When the family returned home that night, the girl was singing Christmas carols, but the parents were still arguing with one another. Finally, the father, told the little girl to stop singing and go to bed. The girl started upstairs to her room, but she stopped on her way, opened a window and looked out. “Why did you open the window, don’t you see it is cold?” her father asked. “Because I thought I heard the angels singing,” answered the girl. “I don’t hear any angels singing, and neither do you. Now get upstairs and into your bed right away.” The little girl paused for a second and gently said, “Daddy, if you want to hear the angels sing, you have to listen with your heart”.



* * * *

For many, the Christmas season has become a burden. The burden of planning activities, preparing shopping lists, getting stuck in traffic, waiting in long lines at the stores, wrapping gifts last minute, cooking, inviting people over and the burden of having to do all of these things in the period between Thanksgiving and December 25.

It is normal, therefore, to see people grumpy, tired, exhausted and burned out, even though Christmas is a time of joy and celebration.

Yet, there is more to it. There are angels singing and to hear them sing one should open the window to one’s heart.

“Christmas in our Hearts” was the setting of most of the activities organized by the volunteer ladies of AMAA Committees this year (Orphan/Child Care, Summer Camps, and the Armenian Children’s Milk Fund) “Helping Children in Armenia” event in Boston in February, the “Little Hands United, Making a Difference in Armenia” in Los Angeles in April, the “Christmas in October” event in New Jersey, “Celebrating Children 2003” in Boston in October and finally the “Little Hands, Big Hearts” in New Jersey in November. These activities involved so much effort, planning, organizing and hard work. Yet those who were involved did not consider it a burden, because they had the Christmas Spirit in their hearts. They were able to hear the angels sing.

The shepherds in the field did not feel grumpy when they left their comfort and traveled by night to Bethlehem to witness the birth of the King.

The three wise men did not complain for sitting straight on camel backs for three days and nights to reach Bethlehem and bring their gifts.

They all had a vision and the wisdom of opening their hearts and letting the Christmas spirit in. They were able to enjoy the angels singing.

The Armenian Missionary Association of America is blessed to have a host of faithful members and friends, who feel Christmas in their hearts, who take joy in planning, organizing and sharing their talents and gifts with others. We thank them all and pray that God will lead many more to join their ranks, and keep “the windows open” so that we will be able to hear the angels sing and join to proclaim:

Qristos 6nau ; u la\tn; zau4]; xi4 m; xi M; 6 Au; ti s

Krisdos dzenav yev haydnetzav, tzezi, mezi Medz Avedis.

“Christ is born and is revealed good tidings to you and us.”

AMAA Holds Its 84th Annual Meeting in Montreal

The Armenian Missionary Association of America's 85th Anniversary was celebrated in Montreal, Canada during the weekend of October 16 to 19, 2003 in conjunction with the 84th Annual Meeting and related activities. The host church this year was the Armenian Evangelical Mother Church of Laval, Montreal.

The four day long celebratory program began with the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Armenian Evangelical World Council which unites Armenian Evangelical Unions worldwide – Armenia, North America, France and the Near East along with representatives of the AMAA and the Stephen Philibosian Foundation.

AMAA's Mission Conference was held on Friday. A large contingent of AMAA Board Members, church pastors, lay leaders and representatives of missions committees from North America and overseas were present including Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Lebanon, Turkey and the United States.

AMAA's Board of Directors meetings were held on Friday evening October 17 and Saturday afternoon, October 18. AMAA President Andy Torigian chaired the meetings which were attended by a large number of AMAA Board and ex-officio members, as well as special guests from Armenian Evangelical Churches worldwide.

At the 84th Annual Meeting of the AMAA on Saturday, October 18, 2003, there were over 100 individuals representing Armenian Evangelical communities worldwide. Reports were presented by the officers of the Association, Committee Chairpersons, AMAA Mission Committee representatives and AMAA affiliated organizations such as the Stephen Philibosian Foundation, Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ, United Armenia Fund, All Armenia Fund and Armenian Children's Milk Fund. Collectively the reports reflected the ever-expanding mission of the AMAA in 22 countries around the world including Armenia. Highlights extracted from the reports indicate the scope of the activities as follows:

- AMAA's budget for fiscal 2003-2004 is \$5,397,065. Of this amount, \$1,931,896 is earmarked for Relief, \$1,160,796 for Evangelism, and \$1,008,700 for Education.
- AMAA's total income during the past year was \$5,326,989. About 10% of this was allocated for administrative expenses and overhead including technological upgrades.
- AMAA's Orphan/Child Sponsorship Program in Armenia and Karabagh has expanded to support and sponsor 2,800 children and their families.
- More than 10,000 children attended summer camps in Armenia and Karabagh this year.
- AMAA's Child Education Sponsorship Program in the Middle East included 800 students who received tuition aid during the past year.
- Haigazian University of Beirut, Lebanon, has continued to excel academically, attracting a record number of students half of whom



are Armenian. The graduating Class of 2003 included 79 students with BA, BS and MA degrees and 7 from the Teacher Training Program.

- AMAA's Scholarship Committee awarded \$115,000 in grants to 70 Armenian college and university students. In addition, \$10,000 in scholarship aid was awarded to college students in Armenia.

It should be noted that AMAA's mission and service programs provide help to all needy Armenians, irrespective of religious or political affiliation. During the last decade, AMAA has expanded its outreach, providing aid in non-Armenian settings. During the past year, special aid was provided to those affected by the War in Iraq along with continued relief and rehabilitation programs in Cameroon and Mozambique.

A highlight of the Annual Meeting related activities was the Centennial Concert.

On Saturday evening, October 18, 2003 at 7:30 P.M., a concert performance took place at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal, dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of the birth of the great Armenian composer Aram Khatchaturian.

The program featured the FACE Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Theodora Stathopoulos. This orchestra is an apprenticeship orchestra that brings together professionals, serious ama-

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**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL WORLD COUNCIL MEETS IN MONTREAL**

The Executive Committee of the Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC) held its annual meeting on Oct. 16, 2003 in the Armenian Evang'l Church of Montreal, Canada.

The Executive Committee received the annual reports, reviewed activities of the member unions and organizations of the Council, deliberated and acted upon some important issues. The Committee also received the Treasurer's report for the year 2002-2003 and approved the budget for the ensuing year.

The Committee noted the following highlights during the past year:

- a. The amended Constitution and By-laws of AEWC.
- b. The First World Conference of Armenian Evangelical Pastors, held in Thollon – Evian, France from April 28 to May 2, 2003.
- c. The publication of a bilingual book entitled **“The Pastor’s Manual for the Officers of the Armenian Evangelical Churches/Hovagan Tzerakirk”**.
- d. The publication of the New Testament in Eastern Armenian entitled “New Ararat Version” sponsored by the Armenian Missionary Association and the Bible Society.

The Executive Committee of AEWC also made the following resolutions:

1. To prepare a well-rounded Christian Education curriculum and Armenian Evangelical Confirmation textbook (catechism).
2. To strengthen the ties between the Armenian Evangelical and Armenian Baptist churches of Armenia for the benefit of a viable Evangelical Union of Armenia.
3. To adopt a uniform “Order of Worship”.
4. To prepare a lectionary for the church year 2003-2004.
5. To recommend to the five church unions more frequency of the administration of the Sacrament of Communion.
6. In the case of Baptism, it was recommended that churches refrain from rebaptism; and show sensitivity toward each other's practices.
7. To remind all church unions to continue preserving and strengthening the inter-church, inter-union, as well as all ecumenical ties with Armenian and non-Armenian church bodies.
8. To mobilize all the means of church unions for the purpose of recruiting, training and placing the future religious leaders of the Armenian Evangelical Church.
9. To remind the leadership of the five unions that they respect the inter-union protocol when they call a new minister from a sister union.
10. To utilize the computer, the internet and the web as effective and powerful vehicles of communication, dissemination of information and evangelism. It was decided that a common Armenian font be adopted for easy communication. G

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teurs and young talented musicians in order to educate the young and help them develop into mature musicians.

The program started after the welcoming words and opening prayer by Rev. Mher Khatchikian, pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal. The first piece was Khatchaturian's Masquerade Suite, a piece well known for its beautiful melodies, many of which have their origins in Armenian folk music. This was very well received by the audience who responded with enthusiastic applause. Then pianist Gregory Chavardian joined the orchestra in performing selections from Khatchaturian's Piano Concerto, which is a very difficult and virtuosic piece, and is often performed in the international classical music repertoire. In this piece the “old” Armenian folk style melodies are framed in a heavily rhythmic twentieth century style “modern” structure. This combination proved to be irresistible to the audience who thanked the performers one more time with thunderous applause. Following the intermission, the orchestra played the Gayane Ballet Suite # 1. This consisted of eight sections and concluded with the Lezhinka dance, which was a very difficult piece with a very rapid dance rhythm. It was performed with great agility and pro-

ficiency and managed to bring the audience to its feet demanding an encore, to which the conductor and orchestra obliged graciously. Rev. Khatchikian then thanked all the performers for a job well done, and the event concluded with a benediction offered by Rev. René Léonian.

The 84th Anniversary Service of Praise was held at the Armenian Evangelical Mother Church in Laval Montreal. The service was led by the pastor of the host church, Rev. Mher Khatchikian. Twenty pastors from around the world took part in the service with songs of praise, prayers, communion and messages both in Armenian and English. Inspiring messages were given by Rev. Megerdich Karagoezian of Beirut, Lebanon and Rev. Ara Guekguezian of Fresno, California. The service included a moment of remembrance in memory of AMAA members and friends who had made the transition from this life to life eternal during the past year. A highlight during the service was the ceremony of installation of the new officers and Board Members of the Association.

The four days of meetings, deliberations, fellowship and worship offered memorable opportunities and also an opportunity to thank God and praise Him for the 85 years of AMAA history and ministry around the world. G

AMAA Summer Camps Bring Joy to Thousands of Children in Armenia and Karabagh

Tamar is an 11 year old from Karabagh. She attends AMAA Christian Education programs. Her family is so desperately poor that they have hard times putting bread on the table. Tamar came to camp with only the clothes she was wearing. She had no spare clothes to bring. She did not have warm clothes to protect her from the cooler weather at Camp Shoushi. Tamar's birthday was on July 13. Her teammates had already prepared a surprise party with gifts and a few refreshments. During this afternoon a group of campers from Goris also surprised her when they dropped in with gifts, singing "Happy Birthday." In addition that same evening, Tamar was asked on stage to the applause of all the campers, to receive her birthday gift from the camp. Needless to say, Tamar was in tears of joy. This was the best birthday she had ever had. More important though, her fellow campers had applied the day's lesson, "giving your best".

Tamar is not the only child that comes to camp with only the clothes she is wearing. There are many like her that come in worn-out clothes. Thanks to the generosity of friends, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), this summer, distributed 500 pairs of jeans and 1,000 backpacks to needy children.

AMAA summer camps aim at providing children and youth in Armenia with not only nutrition, clothing and a healthy environment but also an opportunity to experience God's love in a Christian atmosphere, especially within the fellowship of small groups.

Hasmig, a 13 year old girl from Yerevan comes from a broken family. Her parents are separated. She lives with her mother, yet longs to see her father. Hasmig tells her story to her teammates and counselor. They call, show love, understanding and sympathy and start praying for her. She was deeply touched by their loving care and wanted to have Christ as her savior. Hasmig dedicated her life to Christ on her 13th birthday, August 9. She said that this was her greatest birthday gift."

The children attending camp experience Christ by interacting with each other and with their counselors who love and care for them, at the same time enjoying the fun and the blessings of the summer camps.

During the summer of 2003, the AMAA continued its 13 year tradition of organizing summer camps for children, youth and young adults in Armenia, Karabagh and Georgia. Three thousand four hundred attended camp this year in three different locations: **Camp Lori** in Lori region in Northern Armenia, **Sheen Shoghig Camp** in Hankavan – 70 km north of Yerevan and **Shoushi Camp** in Shoushi Karabagh.



ARMENIA

Furthermore, over 7,500 children participated in 66 Day Camps held throughout Armenia and Karabagh.

Summer 2003 was a historical camp season for the AMAA. For the first time, two of the camps were held on properties recently acquired by the AMAA – Sheen Shoghig Camp in Hankavan and Shoushi Camp in Karabagh.

The campers were divided into small groups of 10-13, and each group was led by a camp counselor who supervised his/her group 24 hours a day.

The daily program consisted of: Morning Exercises, Group Devotion, Morning Worship Service, Bible Lessons, Three daily meals, Arts and Crafts, Outdoor and indoor games and Variety Night - singing, games, drama and other fun activities.

The theme of the children's camps was "I love Jesus". Through Bible stories, discussions, dramas, Arts and Crafts activities and games, the children were taught the following five lessons:

- Obedience to Jesus
- Being faithful to Jesus
- Giving the best to Jesus
- I am testifying about Jesus
- I love doing good deeds

AMAA Summer Programs brought many blessings to thousands of children. We thank God for the many AMAA friends and supporters who contributed to our camps through their prayers, donations, and services. We thank God for blessing the camps and protecting us from serious injuries and accidents.

The Summer Camp Season is over in Armenia, but the program goes on. There are already plans for the summer of 2004 with new challenges. We do rely on the support of our friends. Their prayers and gifts will make a difference and will help us bring cheer to the eyes of our children in Armenia. The camp in Hankavan which was purchased recently needs total renovations to make it safer and healthier for our children. Every dollar received will help. We urge you to participate and bring joy to children like Tamar and Hasmig. Contributions for this program can be made to the AMAA Summer Camps Program and mailed to 31 West Century Road, Paramus, New Jersey 07652. For more information, you can contact AMAA Headquarters at (201) 265-2607.G



Camp Lori in Northern Region of Armenia



Camp Shoushi, in Shoushi, Karabagh



Camp Sheen Shoghig, in Hankavan, Armenia

AMAA Renovates The Mother and Child Health Care Center in Yerevan, Armenia

"Remember that the person who plants few seeds will have a small crop; the one who plants many seeds will have a large crop. You should each give, then, as you have decided, not with regret or out of sense of duty; for God loves the one who gives gladly."
(2nd Corinthians 9: 6-7)

The crops of "many seeds" planted in Armenia were harvested on September 18, 2003 in Yerevan, with the opening of the completely renovated third and fourth floors of the Scientific Research Center of the Gynecology Department at the Yerevan Mother and Child Health Center. The floors were not only renovated but they were also furnished and equipped with new technologies that will enable expecting mothers to receive health care and much-needed treatment. The center now can accept 52 patients at the same time.

The vital renovations of the center were made by the Armenian Missionary Association of America through the generosity of benefactors, Charles and Doreen Bilezikian of Yarmouthport, MA.

George Okoev, the director of the center, expressed his gratitude to the benefactors and to the Armenian Missionary Association of America and shared his joy with all present at the opening ceremony. Today, he said, is indeed a historic event for us. After three months of renovation work, the Center's Gynecological Department is opening its doors with advanced capabilities through newly-installed modern technologies for Endoscopic treatment and genetic diagnosis. This new technology will enable us to enhance the level of treatment and bring it to modern international standards. We are doing our utmost in the center to make mothers feel at home and receive the best care. I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Charles and Doreen Bilezikian for their love, care and generosity. I thank the AMAA for supervising the project and making it possible in a most efficient way.

Mr. Charles Bilezikian in his remarks described how much he was moved when he



Opening Ceremony of the Hospital - Mr. & Mrs. Charles and Doreen Bilezikian standing in the middle. One of the renovated rooms of the hospital (bottom).

first visited Armenia. "We came to Armenia for the first time last year and were touched with the current situation there. We decided to help our people, especially mothers on behalf of our families, the Bilezikians, Kasparians and Barooshians. In memory of our parents, we wanted to completely renovate this medical department. We are very satisfied with the work accomplished in such a short period. This makes us happy and inspires us that the medical team in the center will do their utmost to improve the health of our mothers. On behalf of our families, we thank all those who made this project possible."

Present at the opening ceremony were Rev.

Rene Leonian, AMAA's representative in Armenia and Father Vartan Mkrtchyan, pastor of the St. Zoravar Armenian Apostolic Church. After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the participants toured the nicely furnished center and became familiarized with the staff, facilities and the services provided through this center. It should be noted that 1,092 children were born in the center in 2003, and on the exact same day, September 18, four children were born, including twins.

The AMAA which has been actively involved in many relief and rehabilitation programs in Armenia, thanks God for the benefactors, Mr. and Mrs. Charles and Doreen Bilezikian.G

My Experience in Armenia as a Young Newly Graduated Dentist

by Jason H. Keledjian, DDS

As I was completing my dental residency in April 2003, I was very excited to be finishing my formal education. I started to seriously think about what life would be like working as a full-time dentist: no more macaroni & cheese dinners, no more counting pennies, and no more praying for my 13 year-old truck to start every morning. As I continued to ponder these changes, I realized that my focus and desires had become too superficial. There I was, content with what God had provided for me and all I was concerned about was myself, and my needs.

I have always felt that I have a giving heart, but somewhere along the line, I got too caught up with serving myself. I originally wanted to be a dentist, not just because I love the profession, but also because I enjoy helping people improve their health. God, however, was working within me, and I realized that in order to have a fulfilling life, I needed to give back to Him in whatever way I could. As a result, I decided to go to Armenia to work as a volunteer dentist for a month through the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA).

I had a wonderful experience working in three different clinics in the cities of Yerevan, Vanadzor, and Spitak. Using similar equipment and supplies that are found in the United States, I provided, through the generous services of the AMAA, free dental care to people of need. I treated men, women, and children of all ages who in most cases came from financially-strapped families. I saw a dozen patients a day, providing mostly composite fillings and performing extractions. I was pleasantly surprised to find a relatively low number of cavities; this is due to the fact that their diet is much more basic and healthy than ours. The biggest dental problem I encountered was periodontal disease, which is the irreversible loss of bone and gum support from the tooth. Since the patients I saw did not floss their teeth or receive regular cleanings, their gums have become severely and chronically infected to the point that the gums and bone could not

hold the teeth in place. As a result, I saw many people, including children, with multiple missing teeth. Without money, people do not focus on hygiene and prevention and as a result, can only afford to address their immediate needs like dental pain.

This was my second trip to Armenia and it provided me an opportunity to see things I would not normally experience as a tourist. Visiting the beautiful churches and historic sites was awe-inspiring, even though it was in many ways, just a facade. I realized that the only way to truly experience Armenia is to get to know the people, understand their plight, and live their lifestyle. What touched me the most was seeing their struggles and understanding how they suffer. The patients of the clinics I worked in came from families without financial security, jobs, medical insurance of any kind, and often they barely have enough money to meet their basic daily needs of food, shelter, and electricity. Can you imagine the difficulty and frustration a father faces who cannot support his own family's basic needs, let alone their educational or medical needs? And what about the frustration a mother feels because she does not have the resources to take care of her children or give them a good education. Or perhaps the younger generation who fails to laugh, smile, or have hope because even with an education, they know their future is grim, at least financially.

The irony is that there is hope and happiness for the Armenian people. Some of it comes from the millions of dollars being invested by the West and Diaspora. But what happens when the money dries up? What will they have then? I believe their hope, as well as ours, comes from God. When Christ is in our heart, He not only gives us hope



and a future, He also provides us with peace, joy, and a sense of purpose. In Armenia, when someone has accepted Christ, I noticed that the sadness and hopelessness seemed to disappear. This hope was quite evident in their eyes, faces, and demeanor. These Christians still have little money and no jobs, but yet they know they have a future because of their relationship with the Lord.

As I reflect on my trip, I know I helped many people improve the quality of their health or by simply showing that I care about them. Through God's blessings, the AMAA provides these services to the people of Armenia. They not only work to meet the spiritual needs of the Armenian people, they also work to meet their physiological needs. At the various clinics they operate, they provide a doctor, nurse, dentist, and at some, a pharmacist and social worker. These professionals are natives of Armenia. They are locally trained and paid by the AMAA, and treat each person solely on the basis of what is best for that patient.

I am proud to be a part of the AMAA, acting as a servant of God to help fulfill God's will. I am blessed to be a part of their program and not only help where there is need, but also to improve the quality of people's lives.G

Teachers Training Seminar of Armenian/Syriac Evangelical Schools in Syria

A teachers' Training Seminar was held from September 11-14, 2003 in Kchag Center, Kessab, patronized by the Executive Committee of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria, and organized by the Armenian Evangelical Educational Council. The seminar was aimed at the educational, spiritual and intellectual preparation of the participants and extending their evolution by helping them discover new pedagogical and educational methods.

The group of participants consisted of 55 teachers and principals, coming from schools belonging to the Armenian and Syriac Evangelical community in Syria (Aleppo, Kessab and Damascus).

The seminar commenced officially on Thursday, the 11th of September, at 6 p.m., by Rev. Haroutune Selimian, Chair of the Armenian Evangelical Educational Council of Syria. The following topics were finely exposed.

- The vital role of Education ? (How should we breed the student then educate him/her properly.
- The purpose and methods of education.



- How to establish the purpose of each lesson, and the methods to do so.

Some of the sessions included interesting workshops where the participants were

given the opportunity to prepare a practical lesson and its' presentation. At the closure of the seminar, time was given for written evaluation and resumé.G

UAECNE Holds Its 60th General Assembly

The sixtieth General Assembly of the UAECNE convened from 7-10 September, 2003, in the Holy Trinity Armenian Evangelical Church, Kessab – Syria.

The General Assembly was attended by 54 delegates and standing members, 33 honorary members and many guests.

The business meetings were moderated by the Rev. Krikor Youmoushakian, pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Sydney – Australia, while Ms. Ani Boudjikanian served as secretary.

On the agenda of the working sessions were the reports of the President, the Central Committee and its finances, also special reports from churches in

Iran, Turkey, Australia, and the Armenian Evangelical Fellowship of Cyprus. The representatives of various institutions and instrumentalities of the UAECNE had the opportunity to present their reports.

The Assembly discussed issues raised by the different churches and, upon due deliberation, passed the appropriate resolutions.

This was an occasion for the delegates to also visit the Armenian Evangelical Churches of the beautiful mountainous region in Keurkune, Ekiz-Olounk and Kaladouran.

Elections took place on the last day: the

Educational Council of Lebanon was re-elected for a new term of three years; Rev. Soghomon Kilaghbian, Rev. Nishan Bakalian, Mr. Jack Ekmekji of Lebanon, and Rev. Haroutune Selimian of Syria were elected to join the Central Committee for three-year terms each. Rev. Megerdich Karagoezian was re-elected as President of the UAECNE for a second term of five years.

The concluding Worship Service was led by the Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, the sermon was given by the Rev. Krikor Youmoushakian and the Lord's Supper was administered by the Rev. Soghomon Kilaghbian.

Camp Arevelk continues to grow with 4th Annual Summer Camp Program

By David Shahbazian

August 16th, 2003. Camp Arevelk hosted its fourth successful summer camp program at the Boy Scout's Reservation located in East Jewett, NY, during the week of August 10-16th. With 38 campers between the ages of 10-15, twelve counselors, and four adult supervisors, it was the largest group yet.

Under the supervision of Reverend Ara and Sylvia Jizmejian, the campers enjoyed a week of worship and outdoor activities in the beautiful Catskill Mountains of upstate New York. The speaker for the week was Reverend Nathaniel Gaye of Massachusetts and his themed message was "Treasures In Heaven" with scripture references from the second book of Colossians, and the thirteenth book of Matthew.

On the first evening upon arrival, the campers were divided into two teams for competition during the week's activities. Each day the campers had worship service in the morning and evening where they studied leaders of great faith from the Old Testament. This became the theme of their skits, which was the final competition event held Friday evening after the campfire service. In addition to their religious studies, the campers enjoyed swimming, canoeing, hiking, sports and the climbing tower. Sleeping in two-person Army-style tents on wooden platforms proved once again that the natural surroundings and fresh air helped open the campers minds and eyes to the beauty of the Lord's creations.

The week concluded with a traditional shish kebab and pilaf picnic for all the campers, staff, and parents to enjoy as they returned to pick up their children. This time of fellowship was complemented by a slide show of over 150 photographs taken throughout the week of all the exciting activities. The program closed with prayer by Reverend Jizmejian after the campers sang their favorite songs for the parents.

The enthusiasm of campers and parents has given the Arevelk ministry strong momentum as it begins to plan its 5th anniversary summer program. In addition to strong attendance from campers, is the equally strong support received from the core of young adults serving as counselors. The majority



has served 3-4 years which has given the campers and parents the confidence that the leaders chosen are doing a superlative job. In addition, all of the leaders of the Armenian Evangelical Youth Fellowship have all served as counselor. This has become an unanticipated benefit of the program, furthering the objective of investing in our Youth.

Camp Arevelk is a recognized organiza-

tion within the AEUNA and receives its funding from the AMAA, AMAC, as well as member churches and private individuals. For more information regarding Camp Arevelk or to make a donation, please feel free to contact Reverend Ara Jizmejian at the Armenian Church of the Martyrs in Worcester, MA at 508-753-7650 or David Shahbazian at 845-339-3676.G



*Warm wishes to all our members and friends for a
Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful and Happy New Year
from AMAA President, Andy Torigian and the Paramus staff!*

Little Hands, Big Hearts, A Show of Success

by Suzanne Minnetian Hekemian

The AMAA Orphan and Child Care Committee hosted the "Little Hands, Big Hearts Luncheon" on Sunday, November 2nd, at Seasons Restaurant. The event featured a Children's Fashion Show, in which young models displayed winter clothing to be sent to the needy children of Armenia. Over 200 guests attended the autumn fundraiser as a show of outreach for those so much in need during the cold winter months. As the objective of the event was practical, its approach was refreshing. Through a fashion show featuring children, youngsters themselves became the agents of outreach, actively bettering the lives of children similar in age, but different in opportunity and comfort. As a result, the effect was multi-generational: grandparents relished in the participation of their little ones, parents guided their young ones down the runway, children displayed stylish fashions, and all participated in the act of giving.

After opening remarks by AMAA President, Andrew Torigian, Orphan and Child Care Committee Chairperson Mary Jane Hekemian warmly welcomed guests to the event. Mrs. Hekemian commented on the willingness of the children involved to reach out and help other children in need so very far away.

Mrs. Hekemian also spoke of the measurable improvement made in the lives of children already touched by the work of the committee and its supporters, showing photographs of one child who earlier lacked the basic necessities of life, but now receives the comforts of proper clothing and nutrition through the Orphan Care Program. Guests were happily informed that boxes of clothing were currently being sent to Armenia. Through the vigorous work of David Collignon, and The Children's Place, a successful retailer, winter garments, worth \$25,000, were generously donated to the Orphan Care Program.

Betty Cherkezian briefly introduced David Collignon, Master of Ceremonies. Mr. Collignon offered stellar commentary during the fashion show, introducing each child by name, and included special details such as favorite foods, hobbies, and most importantly, wishes of wellness for the children of Armenia. Approximately 60 children modeled outfits, ranging from warm winter active wear, including jackets, sweaters, and hats, to festive holiday fashions. Guests not only found themselves entertained by the parade of young models, but also touched by the sentiments of concern many expressed for the children of Armenia.

Quite clearly, the event was a successful means of outreach. Over \$160,000 was raised for the Orphan and Child/Care Program through the generous contributions of AMAA supporters. In addition, the winter outfits modeled during the fashion show were sent to Armenia in order to provide immediate comfort to children.G



The Armenian Children's Milk Fund: 14 Years of Giving Armenia's Most Vulnerable Citizens a Healthy Start in Life

1. The Milk Fund's History

The Armenian Children's Milk Fund is an all-volunteer organization formed by a diverse group of caring individuals shortly after the tragic earthquake in Armenia in December 1988.

2. Our Mission

The Milk Fund's mission is to assist those children in Armenia who would otherwise not receive adequate nutrition. ACMF accomplishes its mission through a sustaining nutrition program. ACMF provides soy-based Isomil infant formula to needy children during their first year of life. ACMF focuses on children whose mothers are ill, absent or for some reason physically unable to breast feed, and whose families are too poor to purchase formula.

3. Why Isomil?

During its 14 year history of helping children in Armenia, ACMF has at times supplied dry powered milk and pedialyte to needy children. However, ACMF has focused on providing Isomil, for a variety of reasons. Powdered formula is packaged so that it survives the long trip from the United States to Armenia, unlike dry powered milk which is often distributed in fragile packages, and is sensitive to dampness. Isomil is lactose free, so that it can be digested by most infants with lactose intolerance or other digestive problems. Finally, unlike dry powdered milk, Isomil cannot be used for any other purpose, therefore reducing the risk of temptation for potential thieves. Since its inception, ACMF has benefited from the generosity of Abbott Laboratories, the manufacturer of Isomil. Abbott provides Isomil to ACMF at low cost.

4. Our Fundraising Efforts

The volunteers of the Armenian Children's Milk Fund have held numerous fundraisers, large and small, over the past 14 years. For example, during the height of the war in Nagorno-Karabagh, ACMF hosted a dinner honoring Baroness Carolyn Cox. Volunteers have organized countless small fundraisers such as dinners or parties at volunteers' homes. An active group of



Diana and Araig Chadinian, born on September 20, 2002. Diana was 4.74 lbs / 14.73 inches and Araig was 5.401 lbs / 18.11 inches when they were born. They were introduced to the Armenian Children's Milk Fund by the Health Ministry of Armenia to receive Isomil. Today they are two healthy and happy babies.

volunteers in the Providence, Rhode Island area routinely hosts group yard sales, concerts, even a formal tea. From 1993 through 2001, ACMF hosted a hugely successful golf tournament. ACMF has also raised funds through frequent newsletter mailings, a project which was initiated by volunteer Natalie Zakarian. Art auctions, wine tasting and "family fun" events have also been organized for the purpose of raising funds for this project.

5. How Can You Help?

There are many ways you can help the important work of the Armenian Children's Milk Fund:

a. Send a donation. You may direct your donation to ACMF c/o Armenian Missionary Association of America, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652 or P.O. Box 652, Belmont, Massachusetts 02478. Please provide your return address so that we can acknowledge your gift.

b. Remember a loved one. Many families choose to honor departed love ones by gifts to the Armenian Children's Milk Fund in lieu of flowers. If you would like to do this, please include a note with your donation which includes your address, and the name and address of the people you would like us to notify of the fact that you made a donation in memory of the departed one.

c. Celebrate a Special Occasion. A donation to ACMF is a nice gift for a person who has everything. Again, please provide your address with your donation, along with the name and address of the person you are honoring.

d. Organize a fundraiser. We welcome your support and are open to every possibility. Informal or elegant, large or small, every dollar raised makes a difference. If you are interested in organizing a fundraiser to benefit the Armenian Children's Milk Fund, we are happy to help.G

I would like to support and enable ACMF to make a difference in the lives of Armenia's most vulnerable citizens. Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

(Please make your tax-deductible checks payable to AMAA and mail to 31 W. Century Rd. Paramus, NJ, 07652)

Christmas in October Luncheon A Huge Success

by Seta Nalbandian

The Armenia Summer Camp and Christmas Committee of the AMAA – Armenian Missionary Association of America held its 3rd annual Christmas in October Luncheon and Silent Auction at the Englewood Women's Club in Englewood, NJ, on October 2, 2003. Proceeds of this event will help fund and provide Christmas Joy Packages to our children in Armenia and Karabagh. For the last three years, the Armenian Missionary Association of America, as part of its activities in Armenia, has organized Christmas celebrations in different locations in Armenia to share the joy of this blessed event with children and their families. Last year, over 25,000 children attended the celebrations and shared the joy through Christmas gift packages that they received.

Mrs. Lucy Janjigian, Chairperson of the committee welcomed and thanked all for their presence and faithful support. She reported that AMAA Summer Camp projects bring a little cheer into the lives of Armenian orphans and needy children, as they benefit over 25,000 children and their families in Armenia and Karabagh each year.

Mr. Andy Torigian, President of the AMAA, then expressed the AMAA's gratitude and appreciation for this committee's hard work, and for the overwhelming support of all who attended.

After enjoying a sumptuous lunch, an informative power-point presentation by Louisa Janbazian helped the guests relate the cause to the effort by viewing photos of the programs. With a renewed sense of commitment after viewing the pictures, and being in a warm and holiday-inspired Christmas setting, those present couldn't help but participate in the silent auction, organized and coordinated by Lucienne Aynilian and Janet Avakian (co-chairpersons of the event).

The committee thanks all who generously and continuously support these programs and pray that "Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these brethren, you did it for me." Matt. 25:40.G



(Seated) Elbiz Baghdikian (co-ViceChair), Dr. Knarig Khachadourian, Mr. Samuel Hekemian, Mr. Andrew Torigian (President of AMAA), Louisa Janbazian (Committee member), (standing) Adrienne Williams (AMAA staff member), Rosy Maranjian (AMAA staff member), Ani Janbazian and Arouss Darpinian (Committee member).



Some of the Committee members: (l to r) Rose Torigian, Helen Eberle, Rosemarie Gouljian, Arouss Darpinian, Marie Alberian, Lucy Janjigian (chairperson), Marie Manougian, Seta Nalbandian, Lucienne Aynilian (Co-ViceChair), Ann Chalemian and Janet Avakian.

A Lady with the Heart of an Angel

The Armenian Missionary Association of America is blessed to have a host of truly Christian friends who lovingly and systematically support the mission and service ministries of the Association.

One such caring and loving individual is Mrs. Isabelle Ashodian of Santa Monica, California. On August 28, 2003, Mrs. Ashodian visited the headquarters of the AMAA in Paramus, NJ. Her short but meaningful visit was an excellent opportunity for AMAA to thank God for her and express our appreciation in person for her many years of moral and financial support.

Mrs. Ashodian has not only opened her own heart to “hear the angels sing” but is herself an angel to many families in Armenia. Over the past several years she has sponsored 250 families in Armenia on a monthly basis providing them with financial aid. She also sponsors 20 needy and orphaned children through AMAA’s Child Sponsorship Program.

Mrs. Ashodian is not a passive donor. The support she provides comes from a “cheerful heart”, reflecting God’s love to others in need. Through her giving she



(l. to r.) AMAA President Andy Torigian, Mrs. Isabelle Ashodian, Dikran Youmshakian

brings hope to the hopeless and cheer to those desperate and in need.

The families under her care are “part of her family” as she cares for each individually and monitors their progress.

During the Holy Season through her bounteousness, the families gather together to enjoy Christmas celebrations. They are

provided not only with food and gifts, but also share in her outpouring of love.

We thank God for Mrs. Ashodian and praise Him for the support we receive in His name.

“God is not unjust, He will not overlook your work and the love you showed for His sake, in serving the saints, as you still do.” (Hebrews 6:10).

UN Ambassador, Mr. Armen Martirosyan Visits AMAA Headquarters

On Wednesday, September 10, 2003, His Eminence Mr. Armen Martirosyan, the newly appointed Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations, was welcomed at AMAA headquarters and had a cordial meeting with Mr. Andy Torigian, President and Dikran Youmshakian, Administrative Director of the AMAA.

Mr. Martirosyan is an Engineer by profession (graduate of Yerevan Polytechnic Institute) but has over 10 years of experience in public service. He was elected to the Armenian Parliament for two terms and has served as a member of its Standing Committee on Finance and Budget. He has also served as advisor to the Prime Minister in international affairs.

Before his appointment as Representative to the U.N., Mr. Martirosyan served as Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The meeting was informative and a welcome opportunity to get to know our new Ambassador. Mr. Martirosyan acknowledged the mission and services provided by the AMAA, specifically in Armenia. He also thanked the AMAA for supporting the U.N. Armenia office by providing health care to all staff members and their families.



(l. to r.) Dikran Youmshakian, Ambassador Armen Martirosyan, Andy Torigian

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^noundi tar; dar]e a5ij me ; us k*en6a\ h m; xi4 orphsxi 9bar] rananq0 Qristosow ou aprinq Qristose minc; u \au i t; nakanouj i un! Mi a\ n a\ n at; n h or m; nq gi takiz k*ellang ; u ke wa\ l; nq a\ n m; 6 Au; ti se or kouga\ m; xi 1-

9Qristos ^nau ; u |altn; zau4 } ; xi4 m; xi M; 6 Au; ti s0!

BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM AMAA

THE BENEFITS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH TO THE ARMENIAN NATIONS - On the 1700th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Christianity as Armenia's State Religion (In English and in Armenian) - by Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, 190 pp., hc. No. 295 \$20.00

BLESSINGS IN BITTER CUPS, by Rev. Giragos H. Chopourian, Ph.D., Tragic, yet triumphant story of a small clan of successful working class Armenians, living in Turkey, just prior to the outbreak of World War I, 250 pp, hc. No. 305 \$20.00

THE BURNING TIGRIS - The Armenian Genocide and America's Response - A History of International Human Rights and Forgotten Heroes, by Peter Balakian, Explores America's attempts to save Armenians from extinction by the Ottoman Turks. Using eyewitness accounts, survivor narratives and documents from the U.S. State Department, as well as foreign governments, tells how Americans responded to the first modern genocide of the 20th century, 475 pp, hc, No. 306 \$26.95

FAITH, CHURCH, MISSION, by Vigen Guroian, 176 pp, pb. No. 244 \$14.95

FAMOUS EVENTS AND PEOPLE IN THE ARMENIAN CHRISTIAN HISTORY (In Armenian) - by Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, 320 pp, hc. No.302 \$30.00

THE HERITAGE OF ARMENIAN LITERATURE, VOLUME I, FROM THE ORAL TRADITION TO THE GOLDEN AGE, 388 pp., hc, No. 288 \$35.00

"REV. DR. MOVSES B. JANBAZIAN - MAN OF VISION WITH A MISSION, Recently published by the AMAA depicts the life and excerpts from the works of Rev. Dr. Movses B. Janbazian, the past Executive Director of the AMAA, who dedicated his entire life to God and to the Armenian People. His writings are a testament to his dedication. 278 pp., hc. No.304 Complimentary - a donation may be sent

SURVIVAL OR REVIVAL: Ten keys to church vitality, by Carnegie S. Calian, 150 pp., pb, No. 278 \$16.95

ARMENIAN BIBLES OLD & NEW TESTAMENTS

OLD & NEW TESTAMENT (hc - extra large) No. 13k, \$15.00

THE 1700TH ANNIVERSARY ARMENIAN REFERENCE BIBLE (hc green - extra large) No. 13n, \$20.00

ARMENIAN NEW TESTAMENT ON TAPES (The Four Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) No. 195, \$20.00

SERPAPAN BADMUTIUN, (Children's Bible) No. 155b \$10.00

NEW ARARAT EASTERN ARMENIAN NEW TESTAMENT (Soft-Cover, No. 13l \$10.00

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(Make checks payable to AMAA - Canada: Payable in U.S. dollars - Prices subject to change)

The AMAA Board of Directors and staff wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends whose names were submitted to us for publication in the AMAA News.

* Arakelian, Susan
CA

* Arouskian, Gladys
Fort lee, NJ

* Andonian, Angel
Winchester, MA

* Arslan, Norman
San mateo, CA

* Badasarian, Joseph
Bedford, MA

* Dudley, George
Walkersville, MD

* Harris, Mary
* Knowls Steres, Lucy

Arcadia, CA
* Maalouf, Samuel
Ottawa, Canada

* Minassian, Lydia H.
Fresno, CA

* Nakkashian, Silva
Aleppo, Syria

* Powell, Frederick
* Soghomonian, Avedis

Allen Park, MI
* Varbedian, Marilynn
Bloomfield Hills, MI

* Memorials were designated for AMAA.

Jeffrey Krikorian Edgarian

by *Tristan Edgarian*

Jeffrey Edgarian was born June 9, 1982. He was received with much joy and anticipation by his parents, Norair Edgarian and Salpi Adjoyan-Edgarian. He was their second child and my only sibling.



Jeff passed away unexpectedly at 21 years of age on Wednesday, October 15, at 1:30 p.m. On his way home from school (Glendale Community College), his motorcycle was struck by an oncoming SUV.

Jeff was an excellent student. He always spoke of continuing his education at Cal State LA and UCLA, to receive his doctorate degree in Mechanical Engineering and teach at a University level. His engineering professor Tom Ferguson noticed his elite programming skills and offered him a job in their Engineering Department, which he gladly accepted.

He enjoyed simple pleasures like cooking, watching animation, and working on hardware. He loved cats and adopted some from local Burbank and Glendale Humane Societies. They were devoted to him and waited for his return home daily.

He had dozens of talents and through self-inspired research and practice, he excelled in each one. He played challenging computer games expertly. To Jeff a game wasn't finished until he had maxed out every character. Jeff loved bowling and was a member of Jewel City Bowling League in Glendale.

He had the ability to get along with people of all ages, races, genders, and beliefs without prejudice. He was a deeply moral individual and made great effort to put others before himself. His profoundly accepting nature was only rivaled by his generosity. He believed that money had no inherent value other than being spent to make yourself and others happy. But the most important gift he gave me was simply his company. I am grateful we spent the vast majority of our lives side by side. He was one of a kind, and our lives could only have gotten better by knowing him more. Jeff, thank you for being my dear brother, my lifelong best friend, and the most pure influence in my life. G

Edward Martirosyan

Mr. Edward Martirosyan of Queens, New York, son of Parantzem and Ohaness Martirosyan, joyfully went to be with the Lord on September 23, 2003.



Mr. Martirosyan was born on August 23, 1921 in Pazardjik, Bulgaria; received his education in power engineering in Buzo, Bulgaria; and immigrated to Armenia in 1946. In Leninakan (Gumri) he married Vartouhi Seraidarian, whom he knew from his childhood. They had two children: Diana and Edmond. Diana was born in Leninakan and Edmond was born in Odessa, where Edward moved his family to flee economically-devastated Armenia after World War II. He worked as a power engineer at the Odessa metallurgical factory and headed the power department. Later he was Chief Power Engineer at the Odessa cable factory, while teaching at the Polytechnic University of Odessa. He was a member of the Ministry of Power of the former Soviet Union. He was a brilliant engineer with a scientific mind. His well-rounded knowledge of world history and socio-economics was almost legendary.

After his wife passed away in 1972 and under the harsh conditions, he attempted to emigrate to the West. After several attempts and many difficulties, God opened the door for Edward, Diana, Edmond and grandmother Parantzem and in July of 1975, they left the USSR as political refugees by means of Israeli visas and came to America.

In the United States, God showed His loving Grace by providing an apartment and their first jobs in Leviton Manufacturing Company. From there on, their lives unfolded.

Edward Martirosyan grew up loving God and the Armenian Liturgy. In 1994 he received Christ as his Lord and Savior. Later on, he was baptized by his son at home. Since about that time, he began attending Evangelical and Baptist churches.

His legacy will always be remembered as he will be loved and missed. But the greatest joy is knowing that he is now with Jesus Christ, his Savior. G

Veronica Bakamjian

Dr. Veronica Bakamjian was born on June 21, 1914, in Aintab, Turkey, the eldest child of Yeghia Bakamjian and Santoukht Ayvazian. She was a survivor of the Armenian Genocide. Her family escaped deportation into the desert and moved first to Aleppo, Syria, and then to Lebanon, which was the family's home for more than 30 years.

Dr. Bakamjian's brilliance was apparent at an early age. She managed to graduate from high school at age 14 and from the American University of Beirut at age 18. Soon she entered AUB's medical school, graduating in 1937 at age 23. She was one of two women in a graduating class of 24 and one of two students who graduated with distinction.

She worked as a physician in Nablus and Tiberius, Palestine and in 1946, she relocated to New York to study anesthesiology at Columbia University. After completing her studies, she returned to Beirut to establish the Department of Anesthesiology of the AUB Medical School.

Dr. Bakamjian returned to the United States to stay in 1953, bringing along her mother. During the 1950's, she worked at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York and then Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, NY. She returned to New York in 1961 as a Columbia faculty member and practitioner at Francis Delafield Hospital, serving there until her retirement in 1975.

During her years in NY, Dr. Bakamjian served as a member of the Armenian Missionary Association of America Board of Trustees. She remained an active and enthusiastic supporter of this benevolent organization throughout her adult life in the US.

Dr. Bakamjian spent most of her retirement in Kenmore, NY, living near her brother, Vahram, and his wife, Rose. In May 2001, she moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, also home of Barkev, and his wife, Grace.

Although she had no children of her own, she was a loved and revered "aunt" to her three nieces and three nephews. She enjoyed long walks, jigsaw puzzles, and legal dramas on television.

She died on August 23, 2003, at age 89, leaving a legacy of professional and civic accomplishments and fond and inspiring remembrances.

Friends who wish to honor Dr. Bakamjian with a gift are encouraged to make a donation to the AMAA. G

John Bedros Yeretsian

John Bedros Yeretsian was born in Jaffa, Palestine (Israel) on August 15, 1919 to Bedros and Sara (Souroglan) Yeretsian. One of three brothers, Haig and Roupen, John grew up in the cities of Jaffa, and Tel Aviv. He was educated in a French academy and after graduation, as a young adult he entered the civil service, working for the government, then during the British Mandate, in the post office.



During a holiday visit to Aleppo, Syria, he was introduced to Aranoush Shirajian, the daughter of Rev. A. Shirajian. Over the next five years they corresponded through letters and their love for one another grew. Later, Aranoush with her mother and brother emigrated to America.

Aranoush remained always faithful to her commitment to John and never gave up hope of their being united. After several unsuccessful attempts, John finally was able to come to the US after fourteen years of distant courtship. After two months they were united in holy matrimony at the Armenian Euphrates Evangelical church (AEEC) of Providence, officiated by the late Rev. A. Goergizian.

Within a few years he founded the John B. Yeretsian General Construction Co. He was successful in his business endeavors. An unexpected illness in 1990 left him limited to continue in physical labor. He passed his trade and business acumen to his son Peter.

John and Aranoush were blessed with two children Peter Aron and Rita Christine. John was a loving family man, a dedicated husband and father always seeking to provide for his family. He was an avid reader and had a remarkable keen memory of current and historical events. He was a member of the AEEC, serving on the church council and ministering through singing in the choir. In 1990 the church honored him as the "Father of the Year". He was also a supporting member of the AMAA.

John went home to be with the Lord on Monday, January 20, 2003. The funeral service was held at the AEEC. Memorial donations were sent to the AMAA to be used for the start of a dental clinic in the Evangelical Church of Armenia in Stepanavan. G

Ernest R. Muncherian

A resident of Redwood City for 52 years, passed away on October 30, 2003. He was born in Oakland, CA on November 2, 1922.

Ernest was owner of Muncherian Rug Company for over 40 years. He is survived by his wife, Joyce; son, Stephen, daughter-in-law, Karen; and four grandchildren. Also, survived by his loving sister, Florence Kase.

As a devoted follower of Jesus Christ, he worshipped at Grace Bible Church of Redwood City and later at Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco. Ernest was also active in Boys Brigade work at Peninsula Covenant Church of Redwood City.

Private Graveside Services were held at Alta Mesa Memorial Park on November 4, 2003. Memorial services were held on November 15, 2003 at 11:00 a.m. at Calvary Armenian Congregational Church. G

Olga Cherkezian

Olga Cherkezian, passed away to God's realm, on Monday the 18th of August. Her husband, daughter, son and four grandchildren survive her. She was born in Rostov, Russia on June 15, 1925. After leaving Russia with her mother, father, and brother they lived in Iran for 15 years. Then they emigrated to Forest Hills, NY, where Olga met and married Archie Cherkezian. The Cherkezians moved to Scottsdale, Arizona in 1999 where they lived next door to their daughter and fiancé. Olga was a beautiful lady of extraordinary strength, of positive attitude, of unconditional love for her family. Her love of nature and animals was evident in her daily life. She cared for her garden, fed her wild birds, and of course took care of her dog Mars. Everyone who knew Olga and how she cared for Mars, wanted to come back in the next life as her dog. Those that knew Olga knew of her zest for life. Her constant laughter was music to everyone's ears, and her smile could brighten up the dreariest day, or chase away the sorrowful moments. Because of her courage and fortitude we were all blessed to have her for the time we did. We know God will keep her safe and that she will always be smiling upon us and will always be with us. We love you Olga. G

Victoria Kiredjian

Victoria Kiredjian was born in Tarsus, Turkey to Caspar and Arousiag (Jizmedjian) Faldjian. In 1915, at the age of five, she was deported with her mother, her sister and two brothers to



Lebanon, by the Turks during the Armenian Genocide. There she married Asadour Kiredjian of Adana in 1934. Shortly afterwards she was widowed with four children.

She dedicated her life to raising her children in God's ways as best she could, working very hard for their happiness.

She did not own much but was most generous with what little she had. Her hospitality was unparalleled. She had no education, but many knew her wisdom: friends and strangers alike, who came to her for a word of encouragement. She had many troubled times, but her faith always sustained her and she made it through. She was loved by all.

Her last 25 years were spent in Nova Scotia, Canada, where she lived a peaceful and happy life until she quietly entered her eternal home at the age of 93.

She is survived by her four children: Serpouhi Surabian of Worcester, MA, Anahid Armoyan of Toronto, Canada, Takouhi Kiredjian of Leominster, MA. and Roupen Kiredjian of Waltham, MA. She also leaves behind 9 grandchildren, and 9 great grandchildren.

She is now with her Lord, resting in peace. She will be missed. G



"Kaleidoscope"

Look through life to the light beyond
Where stones become roses,
Chaos a stained glass window.

Down the road, around the bend
beauty is waiting, so much of it yours.

— Kenneth Garabedian

Giving at Year-End

Toward the end of the year it is good practice to review our past, count our blessings and give thanks to the Lord. The year-end also provides an opportunity to make new plans and commitments for the future. It is also a time for sharing God's love with others through our charitable giving. A Will in this regard can be a good expression of our commitment to loved ones and to the Lord's work.

Ever since it was founded in 1918, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) has been blessed with a host of members and friends who have included bequests to the AMAA in their wills. Many such bequests are used to establish endowment funds in the name of the donor or the name of someone the donor wishes to honor. These endowment funds are invested by the AMAA, and the income therefrom is used to support the designated purpose of the donor, or, if there's no specific designation, for the worldwide outreach ministries of the AMAA. Such endowment funds ensure the lasting remembrance of the donors and provide perpetual support for their designated charitable work.

We are sometimes asked, "How can I include the Armenian Missionary Association of America in my Will?" Some of the ways in which the AMAA can be included in your estate planning are listed below. In these examples, percentages may be substituted for dollar figures.

General Bequest

"I give and bequest to the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc. (AMAA), headquartered at 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ, the sum of \$_____ (and/or the securities or other property described herein, namely, _____) to be used for the general work of the Association as directed by the Board of Directors of the AMAA."

Residuary Bequest

"The rest, residue and remainder of my estate, both real and personal, wherever situated, I give devise and bequeath to the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc. (AMAA), headquartered at 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ, to be used for the general work of the Association as directed by the Board of Directors of the AMAA."

Designated Bequest

"I give and bequest to the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc. (AMAA), headquartered at 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ, the sum of \$_____ (and/or securities or other property described herein, namely, _____) to be invested at its discretion and the income only therefrom may be used for the purpose of _____."

For additional information, please write or call in confidence:

The Executive Director
Armenian Missionary Association of America
31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652
(201) 265-2607

Armenian Missionary Association of America

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